

**Amendments in the claims:**

1. (currently amended) A polymer electrolyte membrane comprising a first polymer comprising acidic subunits and a second polymer comprising basic subunits, wherein (i) at least one of said first or second polymers is an elastomeric copolymer further comprising elastomeric subunits ~~subunit~~, or (ii) the polymer electrolyte membrane further comprises an elastomeric polymer comprising elastomeric subunits, and wherein said basic subunits are selected from the group consisting of vinylimidazole, benzothiazoles, quinolines, ethyleneimines, vinylpyridine, allylamine, and mixtures thereof.
2. (previously presented) The polymer electrolyte membrane of claim 1 wherein said first polymer comprises sulfonic acid, phosphoric acid or carboxylic acid groups.
3. (currently amended) The polymer electrolyte membrane of claim 2 wherein said first polymer comprises sulfonated polyetherether ketone or sulfonated polyetherether sulfone.
4. (canceled)
5. (currently amended) The polymer electrolyte membrane of claim 4 wherein said second polymer comprises ~~polybenzimidazole~~ ~~or~~ polyvinylimidazole.

6. (previously presented) The polymer electrolyte membrane of claim 1 wherein said elastomeric polymer comprises a semi-interpenetrating network in said membrane.

7. (previously presented) The polymer electrolyte membrane of claim 1 wherein said elastomeric polymer comprises polyacrylonitrile.

8. (previously presented) The polymer electrolyte membrane of claim 1 wherein said elastomeric copolymer comprises an elastomeric subunit comprising acrylonitrile.

9. (currently amended) The polymer electrolyte membrane of claim 1 wherein said first polymer comprises sulfonated polyetherether ketone, and wherein said ~~elastomeric copolymer~~ ~~comprises~~ basic subunits comprise ~~comprising~~ vinylimidazole and said elastomeric subunits comprise ~~comprising~~ acrylonitrile.

10. (currently amended) The polymer electrolyte membrane of claim 1 wherein said second polymer comprises polyvinylimidazole and wherein said ~~elastomeric polymer~~ ~~comprises~~ acidic subunits comprise ~~comprising~~ 2-acrylonamide-2-methyl-1 propane sulfonic acid and said elastomeric subunits comprise ~~comprising~~ acrylonitrile.

11. (currently amended) A polymer electrolyte membrane comprising a first polymer comprising acidic subunits and a

second polymer comprising basic subunits, wherein (i) at least one of said first or second polymers is an elastomeric copolymer further comprising elastomeric subunits, or (ii) the polymer electrolyte membrane further comprises an elastomeric polymer comprising elastomeric subunits, wherein said membrane has an electrical conductivity greater than about 0.005 S/cm. The polymer electrolyte membrane of claim 1 wherein said membrane is permeable to protons.

12. (previously presented) The polymer electrolyte membrane of claim 1 wherein said membrane is substantially impermeable to methanol.

13-34. (canceled)

35. (new) A polymer electrolyte membrane comprising a first polymer comprising acidic subunits and a second polymer comprising basic subunits, wherein (i) at least one of said first or second polymers is an elastomeric copolymer further comprising elastomeric subunits, or (ii) the polymer electrolyte membrane further comprises an elastomeric polymer comprising elastomeric subunits,

wherein said acidic subunits are selected from the group consisting of sulfonic acid groups, phosphoric acid groups and mixtures thereof,

wherein said elastomeric subunits are selected from the group consisting of nitrile groups, vinylidene fluoride groups, siloxane groups, phosphazine groups, and mixtures thereof.